Parliament was continuing to pursue its futile course in Peking, where the old Party feuds had been renewed when, in February, 1917, America severed diplomatic relations with Germany, and despatched a Note to other Neutral Powers, including China, inviting them to do the same. A proposal to this effect was submitted to Parliament by President Li, but before it had taken any action, Dr. Sun decided to intervene. This he did in a telegram to Mr. Lloyd George, alleging that British officials were agitating to bring China into the conflict, stating that he had been approached with proposals to that effect, and warning him that the result of such action would be to stir up anti-foreign feelings among the Chinese, especially the Moslem elements, which might result in a general massacre. It was not obvious until some years later what prompted Dr. Sun's officious interference on this occasion. In an interview granted to a Japanese correspondent in Shanghai in November, 1922, he made it plain that his real objection was that China's alignment on the side of the Entente Powers would destroy his dream of a Pan-Asian movement:—

" In joining in the World War on the side of the Allied Powers," he said

"Japan failed to utilise the golden opportunity of making Asia exclusive for the Asiatics. Such an Asia would have opposed the Whites, especially the Ajigle-Saxons. At the beginning of the World War I wrote Mr. Imikai,

President of the Kokuminto, urging Japan to assist the Teutonic Powers, thereby impairing the relative strength of the Anglo-Saxons, and balancing the power of the world. The result of such a situation would have been the promotion of Japan to the position of real leadership of the Asiatics. But Japan did not accept my advice, thus letting slip the Heaven-sent opportunity of making herself the leader of the Orient''